

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-12 cancelled.

13. (Previously Presented) A syringe comprising:

a hollow axially elongated barrel having distal and proximal ends;

a needle carrier releasably secured to said distal end of said barrel and having non-deformable exterior wall surfaces releasably securing said needle carrier along interior wall surfaces of said distal barrel end;

a hollow needle carried by said carrier and in communication with the interior of the barrel;

a plunger axially slidable in said barrel and having a thumbpress at a proximal end thereof and external to said proximal end of the barrel, said plunger including a bung adjacent an opposite end thereof and within the barrel;

an element carried by said opposite end of said plunger and engageable with a mating element carried by said needle carrier, one of said elements including a laterally projecting rib and another of said elements including a groove, said one element snapping over said another element with said rib engaging in said groove to secure the elements to one another in response to axial movement of said plunger toward said distal end of the barrel and into engagement with said carrier;

said element in engagement with said mating element carried by the needle carrier enabling detachment and removal of said needle carrier with said needle from said distal end of the barrel and withdrawal of said needle carrier and said needle into the barrel in response to axial sliding movement of the plunger away from the distal end of the barrel.

14. (Previously Presented) A syringe according to Claim 13 wherein said rib is displaced in a lateral direction as said one element is snapped over said another element.

15. (Previously Presented) A syringe according to Claim 13 wherein said elements are multi-sided and engage one another along corresponding sides upon said one element snapping over said another element.

16. (Previously Presented) A syringe comprising:
a hollow axially elongated barrel having distal and proximal ends;
a needle carrier releasably secured to said distal end of said barrel;
a hollow needle carried by said carrier and in communication with the interior of the barrel;

a plunger axially slidable in said barrel and having a thumbpress at a proximal end thereof and external to said proximal end of the barrel, said plunger including a bung adjacent an opposite end and within the barrel;

an element carried by said opposite end of said plunger and engageable with a mating element carried by said needle carrier, one of said elements snapping over another of said elements to secure the elements to one another in response to axial movement of said plunger toward said distal end of the barrel and into engagement with said carrier;

said element in engagement with said mating element carried by the needle carrier enabling detachment and removal of said carrier with said needle from said distal end of the barrel and withdrawal of said needle carrier and said needle into the barrel in response to axial sliding movement of the plunger away from the distal end of the barrel;

said needle carrier being threadedly engaged with the distal end of the barrel, said elements having surfaces interengageable with one another enabling rotation of said plunger to unthread said carrier from the barrel and withdrawal of the carrier and needle axially into the barrel.

17. (Previously Presented) A syringe according to Claim 13 wherein said needle carrier and needle lie generally coaxial with the barrel upon withdrawal of the needle and carrier into the barrel.

18. (Previously Presented) A syringe according to Claim 13 wherein the detachment of said carrier from the distal end of the barrel is in response solely to axial sliding movement of the plunger away from the distal end of the barrel.

19. (Previously Presented) A syringe according to Claim 13 wherein said one element is displaced in a lateral direction as said one element is snapped over said another element, said needle carrier and needle lying generally coaxial with the barrel upon withdrawal of the needle and carrier into the barrel, the detachment of said carrier from the distal end of the barrel being in response solely to axial sliding movement of the plunger away from the distal end of the barrel.

20. (Previously Presented) A syringe according to Claim 13 wherein said elements are secured to one another and said rib engages in said groove in response solely to axial movement of said plunger toward said distal end of the barrel.